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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAY 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: Storage of U-2C/G Aircraft

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Director, National Reconnaissance Office, dated 27 November 1968, Subject: ExCom Budget Decision, U-2 Aircraft

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional documentation and justification for operating one U-2C/G at Detachment G Edwards AFB, California.

2. On 21 January 1969, the CIA forwarded a memorandum that illustrated several potential uses (RED DOT Tests, and rationale that would justify limited flying of U-2C/G aircraft. However, the memorandum did not mention a concern for attrition losses during the early stages of U-2 pilot training. Considering the limited number of first line U-2R aircraft in our inventory, it is imperative that every possible measure be taken to prevent attrition losses through exposure to undue risks.

3. The IDEALIST Detachment at Edwards AFB, California, is responsible for training in the U-2 at an anticipated rate of three pilots per year. It is proposed that the early U-2 training for the aforementioned new pilots be conducted in U-2C/G type aircraft. This proposal is based on our previous experience with U-2 attrition during early pilot training. Since the first flight of the U-2 on 1 August 1955 until the present month of May 1969, U-2 aircraft have been destroyed in accidents not involving hostilities. Of these, were destroyed during the pilots' first 50 hours of flight in the U-2 aircraft. If the high attrition

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GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM  
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
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[REDACTED]

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rate normally associated with early stages of pilot training in U-2 can be absorbed by the U-2C/G resources, the life expectancy of the limited resource U-2R can be greatly increased.

4. The training requirements outlined above for new pilots, plus the tests proposed in our previous memorandum on this subject [REDACTED] can be accomplished by limited flying of one U-2C/G aircraft. Maintaining one U-2C/G aircraft in the flyable inventory at Detachment G for limited flying purposes as proposed will cost the NRP [REDACTED] per year.

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[REDACTED]

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CARL E. DUCKETT

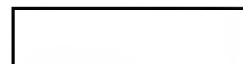
Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs

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Director of Special Activities

12 May 69


Date

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SAS/O/OSA:  (8 May 1969)

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